

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ESSA
NATIONAL WEATHER RECORDS CENTER
LIBRARY

ESSA
NEWS

Volume 5

Number 17

April 25, 1969

Dr. Benton, ERL Director, Accepts University Post

Dr. George S. Benton, Director of the ESSA Research Laboratories for the past three years, will return to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., in September to become Chairman of a new Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

He will continue as a senior consultant to Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, particularly in major field scientific programs and in relationships between research and services to ESSA.

Commenting on the change, Dr. White said: "It is with keen regret that we announce Dr. Benton's decision. His leadership at ERL has been marked by vigor, dedication, and a high order of ability. We are, however, grateful that he will be able to continue his service to ESSA in a consulting capacity. I know all of his colleagues in Boulder and across the Nation join me in wishing him all success in his challenging new assignment."

Albuquerque Radar Facility Dedicated

Wilmer L. Thompson, WB Southern Region Director; Henry L. Jacobson, meteorologist in charge, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; and officials of the Federal Aviation Administration dedicated the recently established special Radar Data Compilation Facility in ceremonies at Albuquerque on Apr. 23. WB radar specialists monitor radarscopes from six widely dispersed FAA air traffic radars to prepare composite charts of the location of thunderstorms and precipitation areas. The composite charts are sent via facsimile to the WB office at El Paso, Tex., the WB Test Facility at Las Vegas, Nev., and to the WB Forecast Centers at Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles. This radar data, in addition to that compiled by similar facilities at the traffic control centers at Palmdale, Calif., and Salt Lake City will result in almost complete radar coverage for the southwestern U. S., and the Great Basin areas.



Dr. Benton

TICUS Contract Awarded

ESSA has awarded a contract to the Geodyne Division of EG&G International, Inc., for a TICUS (Tidal Current Survey) system to be used for monitoring tidal currents in near-shore operations. The TICUS system, which is being built by the Waltham, Mass.-based concern, was pioneered over a three-year period by the Coast Survey's Engineering Development Laboratory, with major elements designed and produced by the Geodyne Division. The system will include 11 buoy electronic packages for government-furnished buoys, 32 instrument packages, and a shipboard processing center. The contract will provide the first commercially built version of TICUS.

Deadline Extended for Commerce Medals

The deadline for Gold and Silver Medal Awards recommendations has been extended two weeks. All such recommendations must be received in the ESSA Personnel Office not later than May 15, 1969.

Spring Storm Research Begins

Scientists from the National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Okla., are readying equipment for a concentrated six-week study of severe storms and associated lightning, hail, high winds, and tornadoes over the Oklahoma plains and in urban areas. Seven aircraft, eight upper-air sounding stations, extensive ground facilities, and several types of radar will be used in this research program, which involves the cooperative efforts of NSSL and other government agencies and groups. This concentrated attack on thunderstorms and their offspring, begun five spring seasons ago, yields a wealth of new data each year. The 1969 spring research is designed to continue basic studies of storms with added emphasis on observing them in urban areas. A surface network of 29 meteorological monitoring stations is spread in a dense pattern extending from Chickasha, Okla., on the southwest corner of the network to a 1500-foot-high TV tower on the north edge of Oklahoma City to measure pressure, temperature, and the speed and direction of surface winds. While the surface network documents conditions near the ground, eight interspersed stations will be providing similar measurements upward through the atmosphere. Rawinsonde instruments will be launched every 30 minutes during stormy periods. The rawinsonde stations are being operated for the project by Army and Air Force teams.

The aircraft in this year's program will be doing varied jobs. The Air Force is providing a high-altitude B-57 jet equipped to photograph the clouds beneath it from horizon to horizon every 30 seconds, and also plans to contribute flying time on an F-100 and a T-33 jet. NASA plans to field test an experimental flight director on a T-33 jet during the spring program. The RFF B-57 may be available during the month of May to study the flow around storms. A third T-33 jet from the Canadian National Research Council will study the so-called "thin line" which appears ahead of a squall line on the radarscope. Two other research organizations are joining NSSL in its study on electrification. Oklahoma State University will measure the polarization and noise characteristics of bursts of lightning radiation, and ERL's Ionospheric Telecommunications Laboratory plans to attempt a close-in measurement of electrical radiation from a tornado.

Johnston Island OIC Named



Richard E. Wilson is the new official in charge of the Weather Bureau office at Johnston Island in the Pacific -- a key station in ESSA's weather observational network. Mr. Wilson served with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He began his WB career in 1955 at North Platte, Nebr., and subsequently

served at weather stations in Canada, West Indies, Montgomery, Ala., and Midland, Tex., before moving to the Pacific in 1963. His assignments there were at Yap, Johnston Island, Kahului, Maui, and Eniwetok.

Ship Observers Volunteer for BOMEX

Eleven observers from the Atlantic and Pacific Weather Projects have volunteered to serve aboard the five ships that will make rawinsonde observations during Project BOMEX. As rawin team chiefs and rawinsonde specialists, they will be responsible for special upper-air observations and synoptic reports, as required. As many as 15 rawinsondes per day are scheduled during various periods in order to obtain the data required for the experiment. Personnel and ship assignments are: Carl Johnson (RAINIER); Charles Clark (MT MITCHELL); Herbert Chadwick and Melvin Fields (OCEANOGRAPHER); Robert Bottom, Homer Shawley, and Ellie Pittman (DISCOVERER); and David Harmon, Earl Gillette, Marvin Hofer, and Donald Olson (ROCKAWAY).

New Map Published of Calif. Seabed

The Coast Survey has published a new map of the seabed off northern California depicting a massive undersea ridge and canyons more than a mile deep. The bathymetric map, which covers approximately 13,000 square statute miles of sea bottom extending from 87 to 107 miles seaward off the California coast, provides the most detailed topography of the area ever published.

Correction

The headline in the lead article of ESSA NEWS, No. 16, was in error. It should have read "NESC Weather Sensor Is A-OK on Nimbus III."

Winter Storm Livestock Loss Studied

Richard E. Myers, ESSA State Climatologist for Nebraska and Assistant Regional Climatologist for the WB's Central Region, has begun classifying various types of severe winter storms with respect to livestock losses. The research is being done in cooperation with other State Climatologists. Mr. Myers visited EDS' National Weather Records Center Apr. 7-9, to discuss methods of operation applicable to this problem.

RFF Crew Cited for Heroism

The crew of the Research Flight Facility's DC-6(39C) received a group award on April 11 for heroism in organizing a quick and effective rescue party to remove the injured from an almost inaccessible aircraft crash in Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1967. While on a thunderstorm and lightning research mission in Arizona, the crew saw a single-engine plane bounce off the end of the runway and crash in a gully about three-quarters of a mile from the takeoff area. The RFF crew ran to the crash scene and pulled two injured passengers from the plane, organized a rescue, found an abandoned fire road for ambulances, and in 45 minutes after crash time had all of the victims in a hospital. Cited for "personal heroism" were: Fred Werley, Brad Patten, Bill Fitch, Charles Travis, Barry Fennell, Stephen Fazekas, Joe Rembisz, Joe Clark, Isaac Richardson, Jerome Mintz, Frank Norimoto, and Howard Mason, RFF Director.



Dr. George S. Benton (left), ERL Director, presents a plaque to Howard Mason.

WB Forecasts for Yacht Race

Representatives from the Weather Bureau and Honolulu yacht clubs have begun preliminary planning for weather support for the 1969 "Transpac" race from Los Angeles to Honolulu in July. The WBFO Los Angeles will provide initial weather support. The WBFO Honolulu will continue the weather watch and daily forecasts until all boats are safely in port at Honolulu.

Dr. Cressman Observes New York Test

Dr. George P. Cressman, Weather Bureau Director, visited the WBSO, N. Y. (JFK) to observe the rawinsonde run experiment that utilizes a remote computer to calculate all the raob data acquired.

New Upper Air Station To Open

A new station will be added to the Weather Bureau's upper-air observational network with the completion of a facility at Leckrone Airport, Salem, Ill. The station, scheduled to be in operation in about six months, includes an office building, a balloon shelter, and a theodolite shelter. Operations from temporary quarters in Salem will begin in mid-June.

Chadsey To Head AMS Chapter

Elmer M. Chadsey, WBFO Honolulu leading forecaster, has been elected President of the Alpha Chapter of the American Meteorological Society for the year beginning in mid-June 1969.

WB Supports Soaring Meet

The Columbia, S.C., Weather Bureau staff gave meteorological support to the Regional Soaring Meet held at Chester, S. C., April 3-7.

Bayer Lectures on Iranian Earthquake

Kenneth C. Bayer, a geophysicist in the Coast Survey's Seismology Division, presented a paper entitled "An Investigation of the Dasht-i-Biaz, Iran Earthquake of August 31, 1969," at the Annual Seismological Society of America Conference in St. Louis, Mo., April 3.

Five on Severe Storms Program

Participants in the AMS Sixth Conference on Severe Local Storms, in addition to those listed in ESSA NEWS, No. 15, were: Paul J. Waite, Des Moines, Iowa (WB); Joseph G. Galway, NSSFC, Kansas City, Mo. (WB); J. R. Fulks, Chicago, Ill. (WB); M. T. Decker and E. J. Dutton, ERL, Boulder, Colo.

Hawaiian Science Fair Held



Governor John A. Burns (left) proclaims April 7-13 'Science Education Week' in Hawaii. Left to right: Governor Burns; Dr. Jim B. Smith, Director of the Pineapple Research Institute; Dr. Robert L. Campbell, Director of the Hawaiian Science Fair; Dr. Edwin Y. H. Chinn, Department of Education; and Saul Price, PRH regional climatologist.

Saul Price, regional climatologist for the WB's Pacific Region and President of the Hawaiian Academy of Science, served as chief judge and awards chairman of the 12th Hawaiian Science Fair held recently in Honolulu. The event brought together 169 displays and research projects prepared by intermediate and high school students throughout the State of Hawaii.

Pacific Weathermen Compete for Honors

Norman C. Thomas, meteorologist in charge, WBFO Wake Island, and William J. Taliaferro, chief, Regional Substation Management Section, PRH, have been nominated as the Weather Bureau's candidates for "Pacific Federal Manager of the Year" and "Male Employee of the Year for 1968." They will compete with top employees of other Federal agencies in Honolulu. This annual event is sponsored by the Federal Executive Board of Honolulu.

Cox, AMC Retiree, Dies

Paul F. Cox, who recently retired from the C&GS Atlantic Marine Center's Portsmouth Photogrammetric Office after 37 years of Federal service, died Apr. 14. Mr. Cox had served on triangulation parties; in the San Francisco District Office; and as a mathematician in the Airport Survey Program.

TV To Feature BOMEX Program

A taped hour-long program on the Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX) will be carried by a number of educational television stations during the next few months. The program, featuring Dr. Joshua Holland, Chief Scientist for the Sea-Air Interaction Program, and William S. Barney, Project Manager for BOMEX, is part of a series called "R & D Review."

Scheduled showings follow:

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Station</u>
6-6	Los Angeles	KCET
6-8	Los Angeles	KCET
6-14	Redding, Calif.	KIXE
6-14	San Francisco	KQED
6-15	San Diego	KEBS
6-17	Oxford, Ohio	WMUB
6-17	Cincinnati	WCET
6-22	Sacramento	KVIE
6-22	Phoenix, Ariz.	KAET
6-24	Phoenix, Ariz.	KAET
6-30	San Mateo	KCSM
7-1	St. Paul, Minn.	KTCA
7-8	Houston	KUHT
7-20	Madison, Wisc.	WHA
7-27	Lincoln, Nebr.	KUON
7-27	Milwaukee	WMVS
8-15	Portland, Oreg.	KOAP
8-31	St. Louis	KETC
9-1	Seattle	KCTS
9-20	Washington, D.C.	WETA
9-28	Boston, Mass.	WGBH
10-19	Tampa, Fla.	WEDU

AGU Members View ESSA Films

ESSA films "Tornado!" and "Pathfinders from the Stars" were among 16 specially selected films shown at the American Geophysical Union's Golden Anniversary meeting, held in Washington, D.C., Apr. 21-25.

Coe Retires

Harry Coe, administrative officer in the Coast Survey's Reproduction Division, Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography, will retire on Apr. 30, after more than 35 years of Government service. Mr. Coe initially joined the Coast Survey in 1933. He resumed his career with C&GS in 1937, after serving two years with the General Accounting Office.

Items to be considered for ESSA NEWS must be received by Monday for publication the following Friday. Send material to: Office of Public Information, ESSA, Room 804, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010